

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3915

To amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2019

Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BAIRD, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. BACON, and Mr. WOODALL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “ARPA–E Reauthoriza-
5 tion and Reform Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-EN-**
7 **ERGY.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 5012(b) of the Amer-
9 ica COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(b)) is amended

1 by striking “development of energy technologies” and in-
2 serting “development of transformative science and tech-
3 nology solutions to address energy, environmental, eco-
4 nomic, and national security challenges”.

5 (b) GOALS.—Section 5012(c) of the America COM-
6 PETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(c)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking paragraph (1)(A) and inserting
8 the following:

9 “(A) to enhance the economic and energy
10 security of the United States through the devel-
11 opment of energy technologies that—

12 “(i) reduce imports of energy from
13 foreign sources;

14 “(ii) reduce energy-related emissions,
15 including greenhouse gases;

16 “(iii) improve the energy efficiency of
17 all economic sectors;

18 “(iv) provide transformative solutions
19 to improve the management, clean-up, and
20 disposal of—

21 “(I) low-level radioactive waste;

22 “(II) spent nuclear fuel; and

23 “(III) high-level radioactive
24 waste;

1 “(v) improve efficiency and reduce the
2 environmental impact of all forms of en-
3 ergy production;

4 “(vi) improve the resiliency, reliability,
5 and security of the electric grid; and

6 “(vii) address other challenges within
7 the mission of the Department as deter-
8 mined by the Secretary; and”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding
10 subparagraph (A), by striking “energy technology
11 projects” and inserting “advanced technology
12 projects”.

13 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 5012(e)(3)(A) of
14 the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C.
15 16538(e)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “energy”.

16 (d) REPORTS AND ROADMAPS.—Section 5012(h) of
17 the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(h)) is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 “(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the annual
21 budget request submitted for each fiscal year, the
22 Director shall provide to the relevant authorizing
23 and appropriations committees of Congress a report
24 that—

1 “(A) describes projects supported by
2 ARPA–E during the previous fiscal year;

3 “(B) identifies and includes an analysis of
4 projects supported by ARPA–E during the pre-
5 vious fiscal year that demonstrate duplication of
6 other activities funded by the Department; and

7 “(C) describes current, proposed, and
8 planned projects to be carried out pursuant to
9 subsection (e)(3)(D).

10 “(2) STRATEGIC VISION ROADMAP.—Beginning
11 with the report submitted with respect to fiscal year
12 2020, and every 4 fiscal years thereafter, the report
13 required under paragraph (1) shall include a road-
14 map describing the strategic vision that ARPA–E
15 will use to guide the choices of ARPA–E for future
16 technology investments over the following 4 fiscal
17 years.”.

18 (e) COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—Section
19 5012(i)(1) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C.
20 16538(i)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent
22 practicable, the Director shall ensure that—

23 “(A) the activities of ARPA–E are coordi-
24 nated with, and do not duplicate the efforts of,

1 programs and laboratories within the Depart-
2 ment and other relevant research agencies; and

3 “(B) ARPA–E does not provide funding
4 for a project unless the prospective grantee
5 demonstrates sufficient attempts to secure pri-
6 vate financing or indicates that the project is
7 not independently commercially viable.”.

8 (f) EVALUATION.—Section 5012(l) of the America
9 COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(l)) is amended—

10 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
13 after the date of enactment of the ARPA–E Reau-
14 thorization and Reform Act of 2019, the Secretary
15 is authorized to enter into a contract with a third
16 party entity to conduct an evaluation of how well
17 ARPA–E is achieving the goals and mission of
18 ARPA–E.”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “shall” and inserting
21 “may”; and

22 (B) by striking “the recommendation of
23 the National Academy of Sciences” and insert-
24 ing “a recommendation”.

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Para-
2 graph (2) of section 5012(o) of the America COMPETES
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(o)) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
5 Subject to paragraph (4), there are authorized to be
6 appropriated to the Director of ARPA—E—

7 “(A) \$392,800,000 for fiscal year 2020;

8 “(B) \$419,600,000 for fiscal year 2021;

9 “(C) \$446,400,000 for fiscal year 2022;

10 “(D) \$473,200,000 for fiscal year 2023;

11 and

12 “(E) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.”.

13 (h) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section
14 5012(g)(3)(A)(iii) of the America COMPETES Act (42
15 U.S.C. 16538(g)(3)(A)(iii)) is amended by striking “sub-
16 part” each place it appears and inserting “subparagraph”.

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